H. R. 3291

To provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 1999

Mr. Hansen introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Shivwits Band of the
- 5 Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement
- 6 Act".
- 7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 8 Congress finds that—
- 9 (1) on July 21, 1980, the State of Utah, pursu-
- ant to title 73, chapter 4, Utah Code Ann. initiated

- a statutory adjudication of water rights in the Fifth
 Judicial District Court in Washington County, Utah,
 Civil No. 800507596, which encompasses all of the
 rights to the use of water, both surface and underground, within the drainage area of the Virgin River
 and its tributaries in Utah ("Virgin River Adjudication"), including the Santa Clara River Drainage
 ("Santa Clara System");
 - (2) the United States was joined as a party in the Virgin River Adjudication pursuant to section 666 of title 43, United States Code. On February 13, 1987, the United States filed a Statement of Water User Claim asserting a water right based on State law and a Federal reserved water rights claim on its own behalf and on behalf of the Shivwits Band to water from the Santa Clara River System;
 - (3) the Virgin River Adjudication will take many years to conclude, entail great expense, and prolong uncertainty as to the availability of water supplies, and thus the parties have sought to settle their dispute over water and reduce the burdens of litigation;
 - (4) after lengthy negotiation, which included participation by representatives of the United States Government, the State of Utah, the Shivwits Band,

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- the Washington County Water Conservancy District, the city of St. George, and other water users on the Santa Clara River System, the parties have entered into agreements to resolve all water rights claims between and among themselves and to quantify the water right entitlement of the Shivwits Band, and to provide for the construction of water projects to facilitate the settlement of these claims;
 - (5) pursuant to the St. George Water Reuse Project Agreement, the Santa Clara Project Agreement, and the Settlement Agreement, the Shivwits Band will receive the right to a total of 4,000 acrefeet of water annually in settlement of their existing State law claims and Federal reserved water right claims;
 - (6) it is the official policy of the United States, in fulfillment of its trust responsibility to Indian tribes, to promote Indian self-determination and economic self-sufficiency, and to settle the water rights claims of Indian tribes to avoid lengthy and costly litigation;
 - (7) any meaningful policy of Indian self-determination and economic self-sufficiency requires the development of viable Indian reservation economies;

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- 1 (8) the quantification of water rights and the 2 development of water use facilities is essential to the 3 development of viable Indian reservation economies, particularly in the arid western States; and (9) to advance the goals of Federal Indian pol-6 icy and to fulfill the trust responsibility of the 7 United States to the Shivwits Band, it is appro-8 priate that the United States participate in the im-9 plementation of the St. George Water Reuse Project 10 Agreement, the Santa Clara Project Agreement, and 11 the Settlement Agreement in accordance with this 12 Act. 13 SEC. 3. PURPOSES. 14 The purposes of this Act are— 15 (1) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settle-16 ment of all claims to water rights in the Santa Clara 17 River for the Shivwits Band, and the United States 18 for the benefit of the Shivwits Band; 19
 - (2) to approve, ratify, and confirm the St. George Water Reuse Project Agreement, the Santa Clara Project Agreement, and the Settlement Agreement, and the Shivwits Water Right described therein;
- 24 (3) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to 25 execute the St. George Water Reuse Project Agree-

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- 1 ment, the Santa Clara Project Agreement, and the
- 2 Settlement Agreement, and to take such actions as
- 3 are necessary to implement these agreements in a
- 4 manner consistent with this Act; and
- 5 (4) to authorize the appropriation of funds nec-
- 6 essary for implementation of the St. George Water
- 7 Reuse Project Agreement, the Santa Clara Project
- 8 Agreement, and the Settlement Agreement.

9 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

- 10 In this Act:
- 11 (1) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means
- the Secretary of the Interior.
- 13 (2) UTAH.—The term "Utah" means the State
- of Utah, by and through its Department of Natural
- 15 Resources.
- 16 (3) SHIVWITS BAND.—The term "Shivwits
- 17 Band" means the Shivwits Band of the Paiute In-
- dian Tribe of Utah, a constituent band of the Paiute
- 19 Indian Tribe of Utah, a federally recognized Indian
- tribe organized under section 16 of the Indian Reor-
- 21 ganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 987; 25
- 22 U.S.C. 476), and the Act of April 3, 1980 (94 Stat.
- 23 317).

- (4) DISTRICT.—The term "District" means the
 Washington County Water Conservancy District, a
 Utah water conservancy district.
- 4 (5) St. George.—The term "St. George"
 5 means St. George City, a Utah municipal corpora6 tion.
 - (6) VIRGIN RIVER ADJUDICATION.—The term "Virgin River Adjudication" means the statutory adjudication of water rights initiated pursuant to title 73, chapter 4, Utah Code Ann. and pending in the Fifth Judicial District Court in Washington County, Utah, Civil No. 800507596.
 - (7) St. George Water Reuse Project Agreement" means the agreement among the United States, Utah, the Shivwits Band, and St. George City, together with all exhibits thereto, as the same is approved and executed by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 8 of this Act.
 - (8) Santa Clara Project Agreement.—The term "Santa Clara Project Agreement" means the agreement among the United States, Utah, the Shivwits Band, the Washington County Water Conservancy District, St. George City, the town of Ivins, the town of Santa Clara, the New Santa Clara Field

- 1 Canal Company, the St. George Clara Field Canal
- 2 Company, the Ivins Irrigation Company, the
- 3 Southgate Irrigation Company, Bloomington Irriga-
- 4 tion Company, Ed Bowler, and the Lower Gunlock
- 5 Reservoir Company, together with all exhibits there-
- 6 to, as the same is approved and executed by the Sec-
- 7 retary of the Interior pursuant to section 8 of this
- 8 Act.
- 9 (9) Settlement agreement.—The term
- "Settlement Agreement" means that agreement
- among the United States, Utah, the Shivwits Band,
- the Washington County Water Conservancy District,
- 13 St. George City, the town of Ivins, the town of
- Santa Clara, the New Santa Clara Field Canal Com-
- pany, the St. George Clara Field Canal Company,
- the Ivins Irrigation Company, the Southgate Irriga-
- tion Company, Bloomington Irrigation Company, Ed
- 18 Bowler, and the Lower Gunlock Reservoir Company,
- together with all exhibits thereto, as the same is ap-
- proved and executed by the Secretary of the Interior
- 21 pursuant to section 8 of this Act.
- 22 (10) Shivwits water right.—The term
- "Shivwits Water Right" means the water right of
- the Shivwits Band set forth in the Settlement Agree-

- 1 ment and as settled, confirmed, and ratified by sec-
- 2 tion 7 of this Act.
- 3 (11) Shivwits band water development
- 4 TRUST FUND.—The term "Shivwits Band Water De-
- 5 velopment Trust Fund" means the Trust Fund au-
- 6 thorized in section 11 of this Act to further the pur-
- 7 poses of the Settlement Agreement and this Act.

8 SEC. 5. ST. GEORGE WATER REUSE PROJECT.

- 9 (a) St. George Water Reuse Project.—The St.
- 10 George Water Reuse Project shall consist of water treat-
- 11 ment facilities, a pipeline, and associated pumping and de-
- 12 livery facilities owned and operated by St. George which
- 13 is a component of and which shall divert water from the
- 14 Water Reclamation Facility located in St. George, Utah,
- 15 and shall transport this water for delivery and use by St.
- 16 George and the Shivwits Band. St. George shall make
- 17 2,000 acre-feet of water available annually to the Shivwits
- 18 Band at the eastern boundary of the Shivwits Reservation
- 19 from the St. George Water Reuse Project and in accord-
- 20 ance with the St. George Water Reuse Project Agreement
- 21 and this Act.
- 22 (b) Project Construction Operation and Main-
- 23 TENANCE.—(1) St. George shall be responsible for the en-
- 24 gineering, permitting, construction, operation, mainte-
- 25 nance, repair, and replacement of the St. George Water

- 1 Reuse Project, and the payment of its proportionate share
- 2 of these project costs as provided for in the St. George
- 3 Water Reuse Project Agreement.
- 4 (2) The Shivwits Band and the United States on be-
- 5 half of the Shivwits Band shall make available, in accord-
- 6 ance with the terms of the St. George Water Reuse Agree-
- 7 ment and this Act, a total of \$15,000,000 to St. George
- 8 for the proportionate share of the engineering, permitting,
- 9 construction, operation, maintenance, repair, and replace-
- 10 ment of the St. George Water Reuse Project associated
- 11 with the 2,000 acre-feet annually to be provided to the
- 12 Shivwits Band.

13 SEC. 6. SANTA CLARA PROJECT.

- 14 (a) Santa Clara Project.—The Santa Clara
- 15 Project shall consist of a pressurized pipeline from the ex-
- 16 isting Gunlock Reservoir across the Shivwits Reservation
- 17 to and including Ivins Reservoir, along with main lateral
- 18 pipelines. The Santa Clara Project shall pool and deliver
- 19 the water rights of the parties as set forth in the Santa
- 20 Clara Agreement. The Santa Clara Project shall deliver
- 21 to the Shivwits Band a total of 1,900 acre-feet annually
- 22 in accordance with the Santa Clara Project Agreement
- 23 and this Act.
- 24 (b) Instream Flow.—The Santa Clara Project shall
- 25 release instream flow water from the Gunlock Reservoir

- 1 into the Santa Clara River for the benefit of the Virgin
- 2 Spinedace, in accordance with the Santa Clara Project
- 3 Agreement and this Act.
- 4 (c) Project Funding.—The Utah Legislature and
- 5 Congress have each appropriated grants of \$750,000 for
- 6 the construction of the Santa Clara Project. The District
- 7 shall provide a grant of \$750,000 for the construction of
- 8 the Santa Clara Project. The District shall provide any
- 9 additional funding required for the construction of the
- 10 Santa Clara Project. The parties to the Santa Clara
- 11 Project Agreement, except the Paiute Indian Tribe of
- 12 Utah, Shivwits Band, and the United States on behalf of
- 13 the Shivwits Band, shall pay the District their propor-
- 14 tionate share of costs advanced by the District for the con-
- 15 struction of the project in excess of the Federal, State,
- 16 and District grants.
- 17 (d) Project Construction, Operation, and
- 18 Maintenance.—The District shall be responsible for the
- 19 permitting, engineering, construction, and the initial oper-
- 20 ation and maintenance of the Santa Clara Project. Oper-
- 21 ation, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities and
- 22 costs of the Santa Clara Project shall be handled in ac-
- 23 cordance with the terms of the Santa Clara Project Agree-
- 24 ment.

1 SEC. 7. SHIVWITS WATER RIGHT.

- 2 The Shivwits Band and its members shall have the
- 3 following rights to water, which are hereby settled, rati-
- 4 fied, and confirmed and which shall be held in trust by
- 5 the United States on behalf of the Shivwits Band and its
- 6 members:
- 7 (1) The Shivwits Band shall have the right in
- 8 perpetuity to a total of 1,900 acre-feet annually
- 9 from the Santa Clara River System as set forth in
- the Santa Clara Project Agreement. The priority of
- the Shivwits Band Water Right from the Santa
- 12 Clara River shall be 1890.
- 13 (2) The Shivwits Band shall have the right in
- perpetuity to 2,000 acre-feet of water annually from
- the St. George Water Reuse Project as provided for
- in the St. George Water Reuse Project Agreement.
- 17 The Shivwits Band shall have first priority to the
- water generated by the St. George Water Reuse
- 19 Project.
- 20 (3) The Shivwits Band shall have a right in
- 21 perpetuity to 100 acre-feet annually from ground-
- 22 water on the Shivwits Reservation. The priority of
- 23 the Shivwits groundwater right shall be 1916.
- 24 (4) The Shivwits Water Right shall not be sub-
- ject to loss by abandonment or forfeiture for nonuse.

1 (5) The Shivwits Band may use the Shivwits 2 Water Right for either or both of the following: 3 (A) For any purpose anywhere on the 4 Shivwits Band Reservation. Once the water is delivered to the Reservation, such use shall not 6 be subject to State law, regulation, or jurisdic-7 tion. 8 (B) For any beneficial use off the Shivwits 9 Reservation in accordance with the St. George 10 Water Reuse Agreement, the Santa Clara 11 Project Agreement, the Settlement Agreement, 12 and all applicable Federal and State laws. 13 No service contract, lease, exchange, or other agree-14 ment entered into under this subsection may perma-15 nently alienate any portion of the Shivwits Water 16 Right. SEC. 8. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS. 18 Except to the extent that the St. George Water Reuse 19 Project Agreement, the Santa Clara Project Agreement, 20 and the Settlement Agreement conflict with the provisions 21 of this Act, such agreements are hereby approved, ratified, 22 and confirmed. The Secretary is authorized to execute, 23 and take such other actions as are necessary to implement,

such agreements.

1 SEC. 9. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

2	(a) Full Satisfaction of Claims.—The benefits
3	realized by the Shivwits Band and its members under the
4	St. George Water Reuse Project Agreement, the Santa
5	Clara Project Agreement, the Settlement Agreement, and
6	this Act shall constitute full and complete satisfaction of
7	all water rights claims of the Shivwits Band and its mem
8	bers for water rights or injuries to water rights under Fed
9	eral and State laws from time immemorial to the effective
10	date of this Act. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing
11	in this Act shall be—
12	(1) deemed to recognize or establish any right
13	of a member of the Shivwits Band to water on the
14	Shivwits Reservation; or
15	(2) interpreted or construed to prevent or pro
16	hibit the Shivwits Band from participating in the fu
17	ture in other water projects, or from purchasing ad
18	ditional water rights for their benefit and use, to the
19	same extent as any other entity.
20	(b) Release.—The Shivwits Band on behalf of itself
21	and its members, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah on be
22	half of itself and its members in the Santa Clara River
23	System, and on behalf of the Shivwits Band, and the Sec
24	retary on behalf of the United States, are authorized as
25	part of the performance of the obligations under the St

26 George Water Reuse Project Agreement, the Santa Clara

- 1 Project Agreement, and the Settlement Agreement, to exe-
- 2 cute a waiver and release, except as provided in the agree-
- 3 ments, of all claims of water rights or injuries to water
- 4 rights from time immemorial to the effective date of this
- 5 Act, which the Shivwits Band and its members may have
- 6 against the United States, the State of Utah or any agen-
- 7 cy or political subdivision thereof, or any other person,
- 8 corporation, or municipal corporation, arising under the
- 9 laws of the United States or the State of Utah.
- 10 (c) Savings Provision.—In the event the authoriza-
- 11 tions contained in subsection (b) of this section do not be-
- 12 come effective pursuant to section 14, the Shivwits Band
- 13 and the United States shall retain the right to assert past
- 14 and future water rights claims as to all lands of the
- 15 Shivwits Reservation, and the water rights claims and de-
- 16 fenses of all other parties to the agreements shall also be
- 17 retained.
- 18 SEC. 10. WATER RIGHTS AND HABITAT ACQUISITION PRO-
- 19 GRAM.
- 20 (a) In General.—The Secretary is authorized to es-
- 21 tablish a water rights and habitat acquisition program in
- 22 the Virgin River Basin—
- 23 (1) primarily for the benefit of species and
- 24 plants in the Santa Clara River Basin which have
- been listed, are likely to be listed, or are the subject

- of a duly approved conservation agreement under the Endangered Species Act; and
- 3 (2) secondarily for the benefit of species and 4 plants in other parts of the Virgin River Basin 5 which have been listed, are likely to be listed, or are 6 the subject of a duly approved conservation agree-7 ment under the Endangered Species Act.
- 8 (b) WATER AND WATER RIGHTS.—The Secretary is
 9 authorized to acquire water and water rights, with or with10 out the lands to which such rights are appurtenant, and
 11 to acquire shares in irrigation and water companies, and
 12 to transfer, hold, and exercise such water and water rights
 13 and related interests to assist the conservation and recov14 ery of any species or plant described in subsection (a).
- 15 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—Acquisition of the water rights 16 and related interests pursuant to this section shall be sub-17 ject to the following requirements:
- 18 (1) Water rights acquired must satisfy eligi-19 bility criteria adopted by the Secretary.
- 20 (2) Water right purchases shall be only from 21 willing sellers, but the Secretary may target pur-22 chases in areas deemed by the Secretary to be most 23 beneficial to the water rights acquisition program es-24 tablished by this section.

- 1 (3) All water rights shall be transferred and ad-
- 2 ministered in accordance with any applicable State
- 3 law.
- 4 (d) Habitat Property.—The Secretary is author-
- 5 ized to acquire, hold, and transfer habitat property to as-
- 6 sist the conservation and recovery of any species or plants
- 7 described in section 10(a). Acquisition of habitat property
- 8 pursuant to this section shall be subject to the following
- 9 requirements:
- 10 (1) Habitat property acquired must satisfy eli-
- gibility criteria adopted by the Secretary.
- 12 (2) Habitat property purchases shall be only
- from willing sellers, but the Secretary may target
- purchases in areas deemed by the Secretary to be
- most beneficial to the habitat acquisition program
- established by this section.
- 17 (e) Contract.—The Secretary is authorized to ad-
- 18 minister the water rights and habitat acquisition program
- 19 by contract or agreement with a non-Federal entity which
- 20 the Secretary determines to be qualified to administer
- 21 such program. The water rights and habitat acquisition
- 22 program shall be administered pursuant to the Virgin
- 23 River Management Program.
- 24 (f) Authorization.—There is authorized to be ap-
- 25 propriated \$3,000,000 for the water rights and habitat ac-

- 1 quisition program authorized in this section. The funds
- 2 authorized to be appropriated by this section shall not be
- 3 in lieu of or supersede any other commitments by Federal,
- 4 State, or local agencies.
- 5 SEC. 11. SHIVWITS BAND WATER DEVELOPMENT TRUST
- 6 FUND.
- 7 (a) Establishment of Trust Fund.—There is es-
- 8 tablished in the Treasury of the United States a fund to
- 9 be known as the "Shivwits Band Water Development
- 10 Trust Fund" (hereinafter called the "Trust Fund"). The
- 11 Secretary shall deposit into the Trust Fund the funds au-
- 12 thorized to be appropriated in subsections (b) and (c). Ex-
- 13 cept as otherwise provided in this Act, the Trust Fund
- 14 principal and any income accruing thereon shall be man-
- 15 aged in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund
- 16 Management Reform Act (108 Stat. 4239; 25 U.S.C.
- 17 4001 et seq.).
- 18 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be ap-
- 19 propriated a total of \$20,000,000, in 2 equal annual in-
- 20 stallments in the 2001 and 2002 fiscal years for the fol-
- 21 lowing purposes:
- (1) \$5,000,000 which shall be made available to
- the Shivwits Band from the Trust Fund for pur-
- poses including but not limited to those that would
- enable the Shivwits Band to put to beneficial use all

- 1 or part of the Shivwits Water Right, to defray the
- 2 costs of any water development project in which the
- 3 Shivwits Band is participating, or to undertake any
- 4 other activity that may be necessary or desired for
- 5 implementation of the St. George Water Reuse
- 6 Project Agreement, the Santa Clara Project Agree-
- 7 ment, the Settlement Agreement, or to fulfill the
- 8 purposes of this Act.
- 9 (2) \$15,000,000 which shall be made available
- by the Secretary and the Shivwits Band to St.
- 11 George for the St. George Water Reuse Project, in
- accordance with the St. George Water Reuse Project
- 13 Agreement.
- 14 (c) Share of Certain Costs.—There is authorized
- 15 to be appropriated to the Trust Fund in fiscal year 2003
- 16 a total of \$1,000,000 to cover the present value of the
- 17 Shivwits Band's proportionate share of operation, mainte-
- 18 nance, repair, and replacement costs of the Santa Clara
- 19 Project as provided for in the Santa Clara Project Agree-
- 20 ment.
- 21 (d) USE OF THE TRUST FUND.—Except for the
- 22 \$15,000,000 appropriated pursuant to subsection (b)(2),
- 23 all Trust Fund principal and income accruing thereon may
- 24 be used by the Shivwits Band for the purposes described
- 25 in subsection (b)(1). The Shivwits Band, with the approval

- 1 of the Secretary, may withdraw the Trust Fund and de-
- 2 posit it in a mutually agreed upon private financial institu-
- 3 tion. That withdrawal shall be made pursuant to the
- 4 American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of
- 5 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).
- 6 (e) No Per Capita Payments.—No part of the
- 7 principal of the Trust Fund, or of the income accruing
- 8 thereon, or of any revenue generated from any water use
- 9 subcontract, shall be distributed to any member of the
- 10 Shivwits Band on a per capita basis.

11 SEC. 12. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

- 12 (a) National Environmental Policy Act.—Exe-
- 13 cution by the Secretary of the St. George Water Reuse
- 14 Project Agreement, the Santa Clara Project Agreement,
- 15 or the Settlement Agreement shall not constitute major
- 16 Federal action under the National Environmental Policy
- 17 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).
- 18 (b) Other Requirements.—The Secretary shall
- 19 comply with all other aspects of the National Environ-
- 20 mental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and other ap-
- 21 plicable environmental laws in implementing the terms of
- 22 the St. George Water Reuse Agreement, the Santa Clara
- 23 Project Agreement, the Settlement Agreement, and this
- 24 Act.

SEC. 13. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

- 2 (a) Other Indian Tribes.—Nothing in the Settle-
- 3 ment Agreement or this Act shall be construed in any way
- 4 to quantify or otherwise adversely affect the land and
- 5 water rights, claims, or entitlements to water of any In-
- 6 dian tribe, pueblo, or community, other than the Shivwits
- 7 Band.
- 8 (b) Precedent.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
- 9 strued or interpreted as a precedent for the litigation of
- 10 reserved water rights or the interpretation or administra-
- 11 tion of future water settlement Acts.
- 12 SEC. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE.
- The authorization contained in section 9(b) of this
- 14 Act shall become effective as of the date the Secretary
- 15 causes to be published in the Federal Register a statement
- 16 of findings that—
- 17 (1) the funds authorized by section 11(b) and
- 18 (c) have been appropriated and deposited into the
- 19 Trust Fund;
- 20 (2) the funds authorized by section 10(c) have
- 21 been appropriated;
- 22 (3) the St. George Water Reuse Project Agree-
- 23 ment has been modified to the extent it is in conflict
- 24 with this Act and has been executed by all parties
- 25 thereto;

	(4)	the	Santa	Clara	Projec	t Agreei	ment	has
b	een 1	mod	lified	to the	extent	it is in	conflict	with	this
A	Act aı	nd l	nas b	een exe	cuted b	oy all pa	arties th	ereto;	

- (5) the Settlement Agreement has been modified to the extent it is in conflict with this Act and has been executed by all parties thereto;
- (6) the State Engineer of Utah has taken all actions and approved all applications necessary to implement the provisions of the St. George Water Reuse Agreement, the Santa Clara Project Agreement, and the Settlement Agreement, from which no further appeals may be taken; and
- (7) the court has entered a decree confirming the Shivwits Water Right in the Virgin River Adjudication.

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